



Chief Justices of India - Quick Revision Sheet

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Study Tip: Most CJI questions test three things together: a "first" or record (longest, shortest, first of a kind), a landmark judgment tied to a specific CJI's tenure, and one constitutional fact (article, age, collegium). Link these three layers together for fast recall.

Firsts and Records

Fact Category	Type	Key Exam Fact
First CJI	RECORD	Justice H.J. Kania (1950-1951). Died in office, the first CJI to do so.
Current CJI	RECORD	Justice Surya Kant, 53rd CJI, in office since November 24, 2025.
Total CJIs to Date	RECORD	53, as of 2026.
Longest-Serving CJI	RECORD	Y.V. Chandrachud, about 7 years 4 months (1978-1985).
Shortest-Serving CJI	RECORD	K.N. Singh, about 17 days (1991).
Woman CJI to Date	RECORD	None as of 2026. B.V. Nagarathna expected to be first (projected 2027).

Landmark Judgments by CJI Tenure

Fact Category	Type	Key Exam Fact
Basic Structure Doctrine	JUDGMENT	S.M. Sikri. Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973.
ADM Jabalpur Case	JUDGMENT	A.N. Ray, 1976. Later effectively overruled.
Right to Privacy Judgment	JUDGMENT	J.S. Khehar. Justice K.S. Puttaswamy case, 2017.
Sabarimala Temple Entry Case	JUDGMENT	Dipak Misra, 2018.
Ayodhya Title Dispute Verdict	JUDGMENT	Ranjan Gogoi, November 2019.
Article 370 Judgment	JUDGMENT	D.Y. Chandrachud, December 2023.

Constitutional Provisions and Concepts

Fact Category	Type	Key Exam Fact
Constitutional Basis	ARTICLE	Article 124 establishes the Supreme Court and the CJI's office.
Retirement Age	ARTICLE	65 years (Article 124).
Master of the Roster	CONCEPT	CJI's authority to assign cases and constitute benches.
Collegium System	CONCEPT	CJI plus 4 senior-most judges. Originated from Second Judges Case, 1993.

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